

1772  
A Full and True

# ACCOUNT

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*Miraculous CURE,*

OF A

Young MAN in *Newington,*

That was Born BLIND,

And was in Five Minutes brought to  
Perfect Sight.

By Mr. ROGER GRANT Oculist.

*R*

L O N D O N :

Printed for Timothy Childs, at the *White-Hart*, at  
the West End of St. Paul's Church-yard, 1709.

Price 2 Pence.

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Miraculous CURE, &c.

**W**illiam Jones, the Son of Annabella Jones, of Newington, in the County of Surrey, was, in the 20th Year of his Age, Couch'd by Mr. Roger Grant, Oculist, on Wednesday, the 19th Day of June, 1709.

Upon Sunday, the 24th Day of July, he came to the Parish-Church of St. Mary-Newington, and sent a Bill to the Minister to give Thanks for a young Man of that Parish, that had lately (by the Blessing of God) been restor'd to his Sight.



The next Day he and his Mother went to the Minister with a Certificate, drawn up in this following Form.

“ As it would be no less Disrespectful than  
 “ Injurious to the Publick, to conceal the Me-  
 “ rits of Mr. *Roger Grant*, Oculist: There-  
 “ fore We, the Minister and Church-Wardens  
 “ and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of  
 “ *St. Mary-Newington-Butts*, do certify, that  
 “ *William Jones* of the same Parish, aged 20  
 “ Years, who was born Blind, on his Appli-  
 “ cation to Mr. *Grant* aforesaid, was by him  
 “ Couch’d on *Wednesday* the 19th of *June*  
 “ last, and by the Blessing of God on the  
 “ skilful Hand of Mr. *Grant*, the said *Jones*  
 “ in 5 Minute’s time was brought to see; and  
 “ at this time hath his Sight very well. This  
 “ Cure being so particularly remarkable, and  
 “ perform’d *Gratis* by Mr. *Grant*; We do  
 “ therefore give this Publick Testimony un-  
 “ der our Hands this 25th Day of *July*, 1709.

The Minister told them he was not well satisfy’d that *William Jones* was born Blind, but had good Reasons to believe the contrary; and that it did not appear to him, that *Jones* had now his Sight very well; for he saw ve-ry little with his left Eye, and not at all with his Right. To which he added, that ’twas not his way to set his Hand to any Certificate, till the Church-Wardens had first set their Hands.

Upon



Upon this they apply'd themselves to the Upper Church-Warden, and got his Hand. But the Under Church-Warden, who is an expert Surgeon, could not be prevail'd upon, by any Arguments that they us'd, to Sign the Certificate, but went away, and left them. After he was gon, they urg'd to his Wife, that 'twould be a great piece of Charity to Sign the Certificate, for then they should have the Cure *Gratis*, otherwise they should be forc'd to pay for it, which would utterly ruin them. They added, that there was still an Eye-Water wanting to perfect the Cure, which Mr. *Grant* would not give them, unless they brought the Certificate Sign'd. And since the Upper Church-Warden had Sign'd it, they urg'd that 'twould look as if there was not a good Understanding between him and his Brother, if the Under Church-Warden should refuse to set his Hand to it; and that the World would look upon it only as a piece of Envy in a Surgeon, if he should refuse to give an Artist of his own Profession his due Commendation. To these Arguments, adding a few Tears, and making a lamentable Complaint of their present Poverty, and of the Necessities that they should be driven to, unless they got the Certificate Sign'd; they so far prevail'd upon the Church-Warden's Wife, who is a Compassionate Woman, that

the order'd the Elder Apprentice to write his Master's Name.

Having obtain'd this, they return'd to the Minister, and told him they hop'd now he would make no Scruple of giving his Hand, since they had got the Hands of both the Church-Wardens, whereof one is an experienc'd Surgeon.

The Minister answer'd, That 'twas a Rule with him, never to set his Hand to any thing but what he could safely Swear, if he was call'd to it. But that he was so far from being able to Swear to the Contents of that Certificate, that if a contrary Certificate were drawn up, to Testify that *William Jones* was not born Blind, and that he had not at present his Sight very well, he would make no Scruple to set his Hand to it. He added, that he could never bring himself to believe any thing by an Implicit Faith, meerly because others believ'd it; that the Hands of the Church-Wardens were no Evidence to him, and that he had like, once before, to have been drawn in to set his Hand to a Falstiy, by seeing the Church-Wardens Hands set to it. The Case was this. About 10 Years ago the Clerk came to him to Sign a Certificate for a poor Seaman, that had a Pension from the Chest at *Chatham*, but lay in a weak and languishing Condition, and was forc'd to receive his

his Pension by Proxy ; the Clerk assur'd the Minister he knew the Thing to be true. However, the Minister order'd him first to get it Sign'd by the Church Wardens. The Clerk did so, and then came for the Minister's Hand. The Minister told him, that if the poor Man lay in such a languishing Condition, it might not be improper to give him a Visit, and desir'd to know where he liv'd. When the Minister came to the place, he found that the Man had been dead above a Quarter of a Year, and had been Bury'd privately in the Parish of St. George's, to conceal his Death from the Minister and Church-Wardens of *Newington*, that so his Certificate and Pension might be continu'd. Therefore, says he, the Church-Wardens Hands are not a sufficient Warrant for me to set mine ; and he told them he would take a little longer Time, to see whether 'twas an absolute Cure, or no.

They consider'd, that having put the word Minister into the Body of the Certificate, if they should erase it, this would put an ill Face upon the Thing, and would discourage others from subscribing their Names. If they should write the Certificate over again, and leave out the word Minister, they were not sure they should get the Church-Wardens Hands again; for the Upper Church-Warden said, if 'twas to do again, he would consider



better of it. So they got another Person to write the Minister's Name.

Having thus got the Names, but not the Hands of the Minister and Church-Wardens, they carry'd the Paper to the Overseers, who subscrib'd it without any farther Examination of the Matter.

The Certificate thus subscrib'd, Mr. *Grant* publish'd in the *Daily Courant* (July 30. 1709.) tho' *Annabella Jones* plainly told him, she could not prevail upon the Minister to set his Hand to it, but got it writ by another.

Afterwards, upon the 16th of *August*, 1709, there came out another Paper, wherein the Minister of *Newington* is said to have been present at the Operation, when *William Jones* was Couch'd, and that he desir'd the Company to keep silence, and to let the Patient make his own Observations, to see what Ideas and Apprehensions he would have of Things after his receiving a new Sense.

Since that, the Minister of *Newington* has had Applications made to him by several Persons, that he never saw before; one desiring him that he would recommend his Sister to his Friend Mr. *Grant*, to be Couch'd by him; another entreating him to go along with his Son to the great Oculist.

The Minister answer'd them, that he never saw Mr. *Grant* in his Life; that he never

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Sign'd the Certificate, and that he was not present at the Operation when *William Jones* was Couch'd, nor knew any thing of it till almost a Month afterwards.

They were surpriz'd to hear that a Man should take the liberty to publish another's Name without his Knowledge or Consent; and some of them advis'd the Minister to publish a Counter-Certificate, to vindicate his own Reputation, and that the Publick might not be impos'd upon.

He answer'd, that it could never be for his Reputation to have any Contest with a Man of *Mr. Grant's* Character; that the Thing, if let alone, would in a short time die of itself; that *Mr. Grant*, an Anabaptist Preacher, having endeavour'd to establish a Reputation to himself upon the Credit of a Church of *England* Minister, if he should be confronted, would think himself oblig'd to take a contrary Course of maintaining his own Reputation, by detracting from that of the same Minister. For, as in Philosophy, if you grant one Absurdity, a Thousand will follow; so we find by Experience, That they that give themselves a Liberty to utter one Falsity, will not stick to invent a Thousand more for the Vindication of it.

It came to *Mr. Grant's* Ear, that the Minister of *Newington* publicly declar'd he never

ver set his Hand to the Certificate, and said *William Jones* was not born Blind, but only with an Imperfection in his Sight; and that at this time he sees very little with his Left Eye, and not at all with his Right.

Upon this *Mr. Grant* sets out a new Account of many Cures perform'd by him; in the Front of which, as his Master-piece, he sets this Cure of *William Jones*, and reprints his Certificate; but has the Modesty to leave out the word Minister in the Preface of it, and omits the Minister's Name among the Subscribers.

But (by what Motive he himself best knows) he persuaded *Annabella*, the Mother of *William Jones*, to go before *Sir John Houblon*, and to make the following Affidavit.

*Anaball Jones, Widow, maketh Oath, that William Jones, the Son of the said Anaball Jones, aged 20 Years, was born Blind in Newington-Butts, in the County of Surrey; but was, by Mr. Roger Grant Oculist, Couch'd, on Wednesday the 29th Day of June, 1709; and by the Blessing of God restor'd to Sight in five Minutes.*

*Jurat coram me,*

*John Houblon.*

If



If she means, that her Son was born with a great Imperfection in his Sight, 'tis true; but if she means, that he was born stark Blind, 'tis false. For he has been often seen playing at Tops with other Boys; and 'twas observ'd, that when he pull'd out his Top, he pull'd out a piece of Chalk with it; and being ask'd what he carry'd that Chalk in his Pocket for, he said 'twas to chalk his Top, for he could see White better than any other Colour.

Another Instance of his Sight is, that when the Falkner, that lives very near him at the *Three Falcons*, let fly one of his Hawks; the Hawk presently mounting up, and towring very high, one of the Company said, I have lost sight of it; to which *William Jones* answer'd, I see it very plainly; if any thing be above me, I can see it very well; but if it be below me, I can't see it so well.

It seems he had a Speck upon the outward Coat of his left Eye; which, if he look'd downward, came before the Pupil or Apple of his Eye; but if he look'd upwards, the Apple of his Eye being rais'd above that Speck, he plainly saw the Object. Besides this, he has been often met going alone upon a narrow Causey, between two Ditches; and drawing in his Chin to his Bosom, as his manner was (to raise the Sight of his Eye above the Speck) if the Men that he met were  
Persons,

Persons that he had a Respect for, he would pull off his Hat to them. And being lately ask'd how he could pretend that he was born Blind, I confess, says he, I could see well enough to distinguish a Man from a Horse. These Instances are sufficient to shew that he was not stark Blind. And his being Restor'd to Sight plainly implies that he once had it.

And without all doubt, if the Vestry of *Newington*, taking advantage from the Affidavit that *Annabella Jones* has made, that her Son is now restor'd to Sight, should withdraw that Weekly Pension, which she has for many Years had, in Consideration of her Son's Infirmary; the next Thing that we should hear of would be, The Humble Petition of *Annabella Jones* to the Bench of Justices, that her former Pension may still be continu'd to her, in regard that her Son has not yet his Sight very well; which is a flat Contradiction to the Certificate.

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## The Conclusion.

**T**HIS is a True and Full Account of the Miraculous Cure, that was lately perform'd by *the skilful Hand of Mr. Roger Grant, Oculist*; which to conceal would be *Disrespectful to his Merits, and Injurious to the Publick.*

And the Cure is the more Wonderful, if we consider that the said *Roger Grant* is an Illiterate and Unlearned Man, and had the Disadvantage to be bred up in the mean Profession of a Cobler, as most Authors agree, tho' some say a Tinker.

But besides this Gift of Curing, to give him his Due, he has another as extraordinary, of Preaching. This Talent he powerfully exercises, to the Admiration of all his Hearers, in a Congregation of *Anabaptists*. So that 'tis to be hop'd he will in a short time clear the Sight, and Understandings too, of them that have been blindly led on in Error and Superstition. He will discover all the Religious Cheats of *Popish* Emissaries; He will detect their forg'd Miracles, which they are drove to for want of better Arguments; and will lay open all their *cunning* Artifices and Impostures, *whereby they lie in wait to deceive.* Eph. 4. 14.  
Tho' some that decry the Pious Frauds of  
Rome,



Rome, are suspected to do it with a Design, that they may have the Monopoly of them to themselves.

From the Beginning of the *World* to our  
*Feb. 9. 32.* Saviour's Time, no *Man* ever open'd the Eyes  
 of one that was born Blind; and from our Sa-  
 viour's Time to this Day, no Man but Mr.  
*Grant* ever did the like Miracle. So that his  
 Congregation may make the same Inference  
 that was made concerning our Saviour; If  
*v. 33.* this Man were not of God, he could not do these  
 Things.

This Evangelical Doctor, treading in the  
 Steps of St. *Luke*, who was both an Evangelist  
 and a Physician, doth Wonders, both in his  
 Cures, and in Converting Unbelievers. And  
 'tis by all acknowledg'd, that he has made  
 as great a Proficiency in Physick, as in Divi-  
 nity.

It has been ask'd, whether *Anaball*, that  
 makes the Affidavit, has not the same Name  
 with *Annibal*, the Famous *Carthaginian* Ge-  
 neral. The Difference indeed is very little,  
 as Mr. *Grant* spells it. But it had been hap-  
 py for that General to have liv'd in these Days;  
 for Mr. *Grant* would have Couch'd his Right  
 Eye, the Sight of which he almost lost in pas-  
 sing the *Apennine* \* Mountains, and would in

\* *Apenninum transit. Hoc itinere adeo gravi morbo afficitur  
 oculorum, ut nunquam dextero aque bene usus sit. Cornelius  
 Nepos.*

five Minutes have brought him to see with it,  
as well as *Anaball's* Son doth with his Right  
Eye.

Or had it been *Mr. Grant's* Fortune to have  
liv'd in the last Age, he might have taken off  
the Blemish from his Brother *Hughson's* Eye,  
and made his Sight as clear as his Reputa-  
tion.

Nothing is now wanting to perfect the  
Cure of *William Jones*, but only a little Eye-  
Water. And this Defect may easily be sup-  
ply'd by his submitting to be Duck'd in the  
*Anabaptist's* Dipping-place, the Waters of <sup>Περίσπασ-  
μιν & sig-  
nifies both  
Enlight-  
ned and  
Baptiz'd.</sup> which have an *Enlightning* Virtue, and will  
so effectually clear his Sight, that (by ano-  
ther Miracle) in five Minutes more, *William*  
*Jones* will be able to Read and Write as well  
as the great *Oculist* that Couch'd him.

F I N I S.

